

CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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In the Claims:

The following amended claims replace all prior versions of the claims in the application.

1.-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A vegetable peeler for peeling in a peeling direction comprising: two lateral gripping surfaces, interconnected by a peeling blade and by a cross-piece, wherein said peeling blade has a cutting edge and a guiding piece that regulates a thickness of a removed peel, the two lateral gripping surfaces together with the interconnecting cross-piece form a substantially U-shaped holder, the vegetable peeler being substantially shorter in the peeling direction than a distance between the lateral gripping surfaces at the peeling blade, and wherein the distance between the lateral gripping surfaces at the peeling blade is substantially larger than a height of the vegetable peeler, the height of the vegetable peeler being perpendicular to a longitudinal length of the lateral gripping surfaces and to the distance between the lateral gripping surfaces at the peeling blade and the crosspiece extends relative to the peeling direction above the peeling blade when used, wherein the longitudinal length is parallel to the peeling direction, the two lateral gripping surfaces each define a middle portion where the crosspiece connects each of the lateral sides, wherein the two lateral gripping surfaces have distal and proximal ends and the blade is connected to the distal ends.

36. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the lateral gripping surfaces are constructed in such a manner that they may be clamped between the thumb and at least one finger of a hand.

37. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein each lateral gripping surface includes a bearing for the peeling blade.

38. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the cross-piece extends transversely to peeling direction and is formed as a design or advertising surface.

39. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the cross-piece is vaulted convex in upward direction away from the peeling blade or concave in downward direction towards the peeling blade.

40. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the peeling blade is formed as a pendulum blade rotatably held at the lateral gripping surfaces.

41. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the lateral gripping surfaces and the cross-piece are integrally or multisectionally formed.

42. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein a gripping depression is formed into each lateral gripping surface.

43. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein at least one of the lateral gripping surfaces comprises an abutment for the peeling blade.

44.-46. (Cancelled).

47. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the cross-piece is flat.

48. (Cancelled).

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49. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 41, where the lateral gripping surfaces and the cross-piece are made from at least one of a sheet metal and plastic-material.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the peeling blade is straight.

52. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 47, wherein the peeling blade and the cross-piece are arranged such that the peeling blade is observable from above.

53. (Previously Presented) The vegetable peeler according to claim 35, wherein the crosspiece extends parallel to the peeling blade.